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31 January 2001
by courier

Dear Sirs

PCT patent application No PCT/DK00/00155
Applicant: Danisco A/S et al.
My ref: 72178 Jen/cor

In reply to the Written Opinion of 4 December 2000 I am pleased to forward a new page 12 containing amended claims 1 and 3 and substitute pages 1, 2 and 2a containing a new introduction to the specification adapted to the amended main claim as well as a mention of D1 and D2. The amendments further appear from the enclosed handwritten draft. No new subject-matter has been introduced by the amendments carried out.

EP-A2 0380110 discloses a stand-up bag of the type stated in the preamble to claim 1 of the present invention and wherein the transverse top connections between the upper edge portions of the top wall and the upper edge portions of the respective side walls are non-peelable connections. The bag is provided with a closable discharge nozzle in the upper portion of one of the side walls for discharging the contents of the bag.

WO 99/10246 discloses a bag having an inwardly folded top wall and comprising a reclosable fastening member between the upper edge portion of the top wall and an upper edge portion of the adjacent side wall. In the shown and described embodiment the reclosable fastening member is formed of a plastic zipper. In addition hereto on page 5, lines 13-14 the following examples of reclosable fastening members are mentioned: a plastic zipper with a slider, an adhesive fastener, VELCRO and snaps. However none of the mentioned or shown fasteners are capable of providing a gas-tight connection or closure and thus a gas-tight bag. The provision of such fasteners is furthermore both difficult and expensive.

According to the new claim 1 the stand-up bag according to the present invention is characterised in that at least one of the transverse connections between the top wall and the side walls is a heat-sealed peelable connection provided between an upper edge portion of the top wall and an upper edge portion of the adjacent side wall. By providing the peelable connection by heat sealing, it is possible to provide a gas-tight connection and thereby a gas-tight bag in a very convenient and cost-effective manner which is well-suited both for producing bags formed and filled on a form-, fill- and seal machine and for producing pre-fabricated bags for subsequent filling and sealing.

The Examining Authority is hereby respectfully requested to issue a Preliminary Examination report recognising the patentability of the present invention.

Yours faithfully

Peter Kim Jensen
Representative of the applicant

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